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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

*24th meeting.*

*March 15, 1897.*

Held in the Reception Hall of the Columbian University at 8 p. m. Attendance, 35 members and guests.

President Kasson, in a short address, outlined the objects of the Society, and suggested numerous topics connected with the early history of Washington City as proper and important subjects of research for the members.

Mr Marcus Baker read a paper entitled, "The Boundary Monuments of the District of Columbia." Discussed by Messrs Weller, Kasson, Davis, and McGee. Mr Baker was appointed a committee of one to memorialize the Government of the District on behalf of the restoration of the old landmarks, as represented by the boundary stones.

Adjourned at 9 p. m.

*25th meeting.*

*May 7, 1897.*

Held in the Lecture Hall of the Columbian University at 8 p. m. Attendance, 40 members and guests.

Mr Justice Hagner read a paper entitled, "National Nomenclature of Streets for the Nation's Capital." Discussed by Messrs Kasson, Emery, Davis, Weller, Spofford, and Judge Nott. It was moved by Mr Weller, and seconded by Mr Spofford, that a committee should be appointed to memorialize Congress in connection with the paper of the evening, for the purpose of securing a change from the present scheme of naming the streets for letters to a system of alphabetical names commemorating Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and other eminent citizens.

Adjourned at 9.45 p. m.

*26th meeting.*

*May 31, 1897.*

Five hundred invitations having been issued for the 26th meeting of the Columbia Historical Society, at the Columbian University, May 31, 1897, at 8 o'clock p. m., a large audience assembled to find the building locked up and unlighted.

In explanation of the above the following letter was received from the President of the University:

*June 8, 1897.*

HON. JOHN A. KASSON:

MY DEAR SIR—I wish to make public apology for the mistake of one of the servants of the University, by which the Columbia Historical Society was disappointed Decoration Day. The mistake has been a source of great mortification to us all. If you feel inclined to say this at the meeting this evening I shall feel grateful for the favor.

Very sincerely yours,

B. L. WHITMAN.

The Columbian University, Washington, D. C.

Office of the President.

*Adjourned 26th meeting.*

*June 8, 1897.*

Held in the Lecture Hall of the Columbian University at 8 p. m. Attendance, 95 members and guests.

President Kasson announced the committee to memorialize Congress concerning the change of names for the streets of the National Capital, said memorial to embody or accompany the paper on that subject, read before the Society by Mr Justice Hagner, on May 7, 1897:

Messrs John A. Kasson, Chairman by provision of resolution creating the committee,

M. I. Weller,

Marcus Baker,  
Lewis J. Davis,  
M. F. Morris,  
J. Ormond Wilson.

The following programme on "Reminiscences of the Mayors of Washington," was then carried out: Ex-Mayor James G. Berret spoke on his personal recollection; Ex-Mayor Emery responded to a call by thanking the officers, members and guests of the Society, but declared he could add nothing to what had already been said; Hon A. R. Spofford read a paper on Peter Force; Dr J. D. Morgan read one on Robert Brent, exhibiting a portrait and photographs; and Mr M. I. Weller read one on Rapine, Blake, Orr and Smallwood.

Adjourned at 10.15 p. m.

*27th meeting.*

*November 1, 1897.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham, at 8 p. m.  
Attendance, about 60 members and guests.

Dr Samuel C. Busey read a paper, entitled, "L'Enfant's Map of Washington." Discussed by Messrs B. R. Green, J. G. Ames, and J. A. Wineberger.

Mr William T. S. Curtis read a paper entitled, "Notes on the Building of Cabin John Bridge." Discussed by Messrs G. Lloyd Magruder, Green, Weller, Busey, and Taggart.

Judge Hagner moved a vote of thanks to the historians of the evening.

Adjourned at 10.15 p. m.

*28th meeting.*

*December 6, 1897.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham at 8 p. m.  
Attendance, about 75 members and guests.

Superintendent William B. Powell addressed the Society and its guests on the subject of "A Decade of

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the Public Schools of Washington," taking up the subject where the paper of Mr J. Ormond Wilson, of May 4, 1896, had left it.

Three-minute talks on Sources of Historical Information were given by Hon A. R. Spofford, Messrs M. I. Weller, W. B. Bryan, George Alfred Townsend, and Judge Hagner.

Adjourned at 10.15 p. m.

*29th meeting.*

*January 10, 1898.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham at 8.15 p. m. Attendance, about 140 members and guests.

President Kasson spoke of the death of Hon Gardiner G. Hubbard, and his connection with this Society. Professor W J McGee offered the following resolutions of condolence, which were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, Gardiner Greene Hubbard, a founder and one-time Vice-President of the Columbia Historical Society, has gone from among us forever. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this Society note with profound sorrow the death of our honored associate, whose labors for the enrichment of knowledge and for the welfare of mankind end only with his life.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing expression be communicated to the family, and that this Society take steps toward uniting with other institutions of the National Capital in perpetuating Mr Hubbard's memory.

Owing to the illness of Col John G. Nicolay he could not be present, but his paper, entitled, "The White House from John Adams to James Madison," was read by Prof. W J McGee. Discussed by President Kasson.

Miss Marie E. Byington exhibited an impression of the Declaration of Independence, taken in 1823; Col J. M. Cutts, a daguerreotype of Dolly Madison, the last

picture known to have been taken of her before her death; and Judge A. B. Hagner, some letters from James Madison.

Adjourned at 9.45 p. m.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

*30th meeting.*

*February 7, 1898.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham at 8.10 p. m. Attendance, about 50 members and guests.

Mr Henry B. Looker, read a paper entitled, "Surveyors of the District of Columbia and City of Washington." Discussed by Messrs Cutts, Morgan, Kasson, Weller, and Marcus Baker. Dr Morgan exhibited photographs of L'Enfant's unmarked grave, and President Kasson filed with the Secretary, to be kept among the records of the Society, the copy of a bill introduced by him while a member of the House of Representatives, May 22, 1884, "To authorize the erection of a monument in memory of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant."

The Society then transacted the business appertaining to the annual meeting.

The Treasurer presented his report; the Chair appointed Messrs Cutts, Looker, and Magruder, as auditors. Report approved and adopted.

The Recording Secretary read the report of the Secretaries. Approved and accepted.

The Curator being absent on account of illness, his report was read by the Secretary. Approved and accepted.

The members of the Society having already received printed copies of the proposed amendments to its Constitution, Mr. Spofford, as chairman of the committee to whom that business was entrusted, explained briefly

why such amendments were deemed necessary. Col Cutts, Dr Magruder, and Mrs Beall proposed some amendments to the amendments, and after discussion, participated in by Messrs Hagner, Kasson, Baker, Weller, McGee, Magruder, Spofford, and Cutts, the Amended Constitution was adopted as presented by the Amendment Committee.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows:

President, John A. Kasson.

Vice-Presidents, Ainsworth R. Spofford,  
Alexander B. Hagner.

Treasurer, James Dudley Morgan.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mary Stevens Beall.

Corresponding Secretary, M. I. Weller.

Curator, James F. Hood.

Chronicler, W. B. Bryan.

Managers for 4 years, Marcus Baker,  
W J McGee.

Miss Byington exhibited a Washington directory of 1836.

Adjourned at 10.30 p. m.

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L'ENFANT'S REPORTS TO PRESIDENT WASHINGTON,  
BEARING DATES OF MARCH 26, JUNE  
22, AND AUGUST 19, 1791.

These documents have not been previously published and are not known to the general public. They are of special interest in connection with other public documents published for the first time in this volume. In view of this fact, and to complete, as far as possible, the history of L'Enfant's authorship of the plan of the city, a communication was addressed to Col. Bingham, Engineer-in-charge of the Public Buildings and Grounds, for permission to have copies of these reports for publication in the records of this Society, with the